

Attorney Docket: Huang/
Raised Portion
Customer No.: 26860

(C) REMARKS

The original claims of the '869 Parent Application were rejected as anticipated, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b), by United States Patent Number 4,704,091 ("Owens"). The Examiner argued that Owens taught an electrical connector "housing 12 with a raised portion 26, which is exposed after the covering 14 is molded over the housing", and that the "exposed part of the raised portion forms a surface". See December 8, 2000 Non-Final Office Action in the '869 Parent Application, at 3-4. The Examiner also argued that the claims were obvious, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Owens in view of the Applicant's Prior Art. Id., at 4-5. During prosecution of the '869 Parent Application, the claims were amended, but the rejections were not withdrawn. See July 3, 2001 Final Office Action in the '869 Parent Application, at 2-5. The Examiner's rejections of the claims of the '869 Parent Application was appealed to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("BPAI"), which issued a Decision affirming the Examiner's rejections. See June 17, 2003 Decision On Appeal Number 2002-1175 ("Decision").

However, at the May 13, 2003 oral hearing on the Appeal Number 2002-1175, the BPAI recommended amendments to claim 1 that would overcome the Owens reference. The BPAI considered an

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amendment to claim 1, incorporated herein, and stated that the amendment would overcome the Owens rejection.

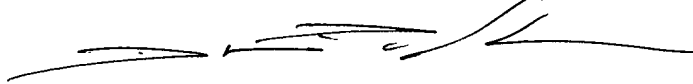
Therefore, Applicant provides this preliminary amendment to incorporate the amendments to claim 1 discussed at the May 13, 2003 oral hearing on Appeal Number 2002-1175. Independent claim 12, which relates to computer adapters rather than the connectors recited in the preamble of claim 1, is also amended in the same manner as claim 1. The dependent claims have been amended accordingly. Applicant respectfully submits that, with the amendments, the claims are in a condition for allowance.

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CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully requests examination of the amended claims of this continuation application and early allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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